

**RUSHDEN  
URBAN DISTRICT.**

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**Annual Reports**

**FOR THE YEAR 1925**

OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health**

**O. A. J. N. MURISSET**

**M.B., Ch.B., Edin.**

AND OF

**The Sanitary Inspector**

**FREDERICK S. F. PIPER**

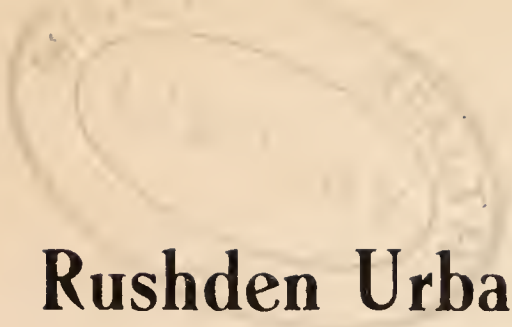
**M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.**

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**RUSHDEN :**

**J. F. COOK, PRINTER, CHURCH STREET.**





# Rushden Urba

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CHAS. W. HORRELL, C.A., J.P.

*Chairman of Health and Sanitary Committee :*

Councillor F. CORBY.

*Members of Health and Sanitary Committee :*

Councillor W. BAZELEY                      Councillor J. SPENCER  
       ,,        D. G. GREENFIELD                ,,        T. SWINDALL  
                  Councillor T. F. B. NEWBERRY.

*Medical Officer of Health :*

O. A. J. N. MURISSET, M.B., Ch.B., Edin.

*Sanitary Inspector :*

F. S. F. PIPER, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

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AREA	...	...	...	...	3,777 Acres
POPULATION CENSUS 1901	.			...	12,447
„	„	1911	.	...	13,354
„	„	1921	.	...	13,511
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES, Dec. 1925					3,241

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BIRTH RATE per 1,000 LIVING	15.31
DEATH „ „ „ „	10.01
INFANTILE MORTALITY per 1,000 BIRTHS	61.61

# Urban District of Rushden.

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## Statistical Memoranda, 1925.

### SITUATION.

Latitude,  $52^{\circ} 17'$  N. Longitude,  $36'$  W.

### AREA.

3,777 acres.

### GEOLOGICAL FORMATION.

Limestone, Sand and Clay.

### ELEVATION OF AREA.

150 feet to 300 feet.

### POPULATION.

Census, 1921—13,511.

Estimated to middle of June, 1925—13,780.

### NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES.

Census, 1911—2,863.

„ 1921—3,076.

December, 1922—3,078.

„ 1923—3,099.

„ 1924—3,174.

„ 1925—3,241.

### RAINFALL.

1924—31.08. 1925—24.39.

Average—2.0325 per month.

### WATER SUPPLY.

Constant Service.

### SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

By water carriage for the most part.

### BIRTH RATE.

15.31 per 1,000.

### INFANTILE MORTALITY.

61.61 per 1,000 births.

### PHTHISIS DEATH RATE.

1.01.



# RUSHDEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



*To the Chairman and Councillors of the  
Urban District of Rushden.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report for the year 1925 on the Public Health of the district under your administrative control.

The general lines of the Report will be similar to those of the last 5 years, but in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health (Circular 648) it will be somewhat more comprehensive, and will be in the form of a Survey Report in which comparisons will be made over the period of the last 5 years. Certain general details will also be set forth.

## **Natural and Social Conditions of the Area. Summary.**

Area	...	3,777 acres
Population, Census 1921	...	13,511
Estimated 1925	...	13,780
Number of Inhabited houses, 1921		3,076
	1925	3,241
Number of Families or separate		
Occupiers, 1921		3,361
	1925	4,065
Rateable Value		£50,201
Sum represented by a penny rate		£185

## **Vital Statistics.**

Birth Rate per 1,000 living, 1921—19'89	1925—15'31
Death Rate „ „ „ 1921—10'71	1925—10'01
Infantile Mortality Rate	
per 1,000 Births ... 1921—80'5	1925—61'61

## **Physical Features and General Character of Area.**

The Rushden Urban District is situated on the eastern side of the County of Northampton. It comprises 3,777 acres and has not extended its boundaries during the last 5 years. On the south and south-west the district adjoins the County of Bedford.

The district may be roughly described to be composed of a central or truly urban area, surrounded by a more sparsely populated area largely given up to agriculture. The district from the north, where it abuts on the Borough of Higham Ferrers, to the south is about 5 miles long, while from east to west the distance is about 3 miles. The centre of the town lies in a shallow valley, and the streets occupied by dwelling-houses slope upwards, roughly east and west from the High Street, which runs almost due north and south. During the last 5 years a considerable number of new houses have been erected, both by the Council and by private enterprise. The direction of the development has been chiefly towards the east, on the highest ground of the district. More recently, development has been proceeding in the western and north-western directions.

During the last 5 years the Council has erected 131 houses, and 122 have been erected by private enterprise.

There are no minerals of note in the district, whose soil and sub-soil is, with exceptions of a small patch of sand, formed chiefly from the upper lias clay.

The grass lands known as the "Meadows" situate on the northern boundary, are somewhat low lying, and in the rainy season are frequently flooded from the River Nene. On the outskirts of the inhabited area, the land is let out in allotments from which the inhabitants appear to obtain good crops of vegetables, etc. Rather north of the centre of the town there is a Recreation Ground, which is much patronised both by adults and children.

During the last 5 years the general amenities of the town have been improved by the widening of certain of the main thoroughfares.

## **Social Conditions.**

The inhabitants of Rushden are occupied almost entirely in the manufacture of boots and shoes, and in the trades allied thereto. There is, however, the usual proportion of the population occupied in the building and maintenance of private and public property. A proportion of the population are occupied in the retail trade for the supply of the district. Since the war there has been a considerable amount of unemployment, and a few of the factories in the district have been closed down altogether; many of them, although they have still been kept open, have been working at comparatively short hours. In spite of this there has been little evidence of poverty or want in the town, and there has been little call for assistance from the Poor Law authorities.

## Population.

The population, as returned after the census of 1921, was 13,511, which shews only a comparatively small increase over that of 1911. What the actual cause of this relatively small increment is, is difficult to say, but post-war conditions, combined with the considerable shortage of housing accommodation may have something to do with it. Previous to 1911 the growth of the town was fairly rapid, as only some half-century ago the inhabitants numbered about 2,000. Apart from those actually engaged in the boot and shoe trade, there are few private residents, and these, for the most part, have local connections.

From March 1891 until 1894 when the Urban District Council was established, the Town was governed by a Local Board of Health. Our present Council Buildings were erected in Newton Road in 1906. The Fire Station, which is also in Newton Road, was built in 1902 and in close proximity to this is the Council's Yard with stables and store-houses.

## Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Births	{ Legitimate	Total 206	M. 109	F. 97
	{ Illegitimate	5	2	3
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		Total 211	111	100

Birth Rate (R.G.) 15·31.

Deaths, 138. Death Rate, 10·01.

Number of Women dying in or in consequence of Child-birth :

(a) from sepsis Nil.

(b) from other causes, Nil.

Deaths of Infants under one year, per 1,000 births :

Legitimate, 58·25. Illegitimate, 200·0. Total 61·61.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... 1

Deaths from Whooping-Cough (all ages) 2

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) Nil.

## Local Birth Rate.

The total number of births recorded for this district by the Registrar-General for the year 1925, was 211, of which 111 were males and 100 females, giving a birth-rate of 15·31.

Birth Rate—	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925
Rushden.	22·77	19·89	17·97	17·6	14·4	15·31
Eng. & Wales	25·4	22·4	20·6	19·7	18·8	18·3

An examination of the above figures shews that for the 5 years preceding the present one, there has been steady decline in the local birth rate, which has been more or less comparable to the decline in the birth rate of the whole country. This year, however, there has been a slight rise locally in spite of the continued fall for England and Wales. This is a feature on which the town may congratulate itself, in spite of the fact that the local birth rate is still considerably lower than that for the country generally.



## Local Death Rate.

The total number of deaths for the district as shewn according to the returns of the Registrar-General was 138, of which 66 were among males and 72 among females, giving a general death rate of 10·01.

	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Local Death Rate	9·23	10·71	9·6	9·49	9·81	10·01

These figures shew that for the last 6 years, the death rate for the district has been fairly steady, varying very little from year to year. This year it is slightly above that for 1924.

## Infant Mortality.

The Infantile Mortality Rate (the number of deaths among infants under one year per 1,000 infants born) for 1925 is 61·61.

	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Infant Mortality Rate	73·17	80·5	76·92	49·3	55·55	61·61

A survey of the above figures shews that the remarkable reduction of 1923 has, unfortunately, not been maintained. The year's figure is, however, below that for England and Wales, namely 67. The present year's figure cannot be regarded as wholly satisfactory, although 6 of the 13 deaths of infants under one year were due to congenital causes. One wonders how many of these six children might have been saved had more attention been paid to the anti-natal condition of the mothers. The figures rather suggest that the importance of the health of the mother during a pregnant period, has not yet sufficiently been realised. The present shortage of work which appears chiefly to affect the male members of the community, may be a factor in this increase in the Infant Mortality Rate, as undoubtedly the mothers-to-be continue factory work until just before parturition.

The following table shews the details of the causes of death as returned by the Registrar-General :

			Males	Females
Enteric Fever	..	...	0	0
Small-pox	...	...	0	0
Measles	..		1	0
Scarlet Fever	..	...	0	0
Whooping Cough	.	...	0	2
Diphtheria	...	...	1	0
Influenza	...	.	1	2
Encephalitis Lethargica		...	0	0
Meningococcal Meningitis			0	0
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System			5	9
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...		1	0
Cancer, Malignant Disease	...		5	11
Rheumatic Fever	..		0	0
Diabetes	...	.	0	2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.			7	4
Heart Disease			6	15



Arterio-Sclerosis . . .	5	2
Bronchitis ..	4	5
Pneumonia (all forms)	5	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	2	0
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	0	0
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	0
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	0	0
Acute and Chronic Nephritis .	1	1
Puerperal Sepsis ...	0	0
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Partuition ...	0	0
Congenital Debility and Mal- formation, Premature Birth .	4	2
Suicide	1	0
Other Deaths from Violence ..	2	3
Other defined Diseases ...	13	9
Causes Ill-defined or Unknown	0	0
	<hr/> 66	<hr/> 72

### **Tuberculosis.**

Tuberculosis was the cause of death in 15 instances, giving a mortality rate of 1·08.

The Pulmonary Tuberculosis mortality rate for 1925 was 1·01.

<i>Tuberculosis.</i>	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Number of Deaths	17	21	17	15	15
Mortality Rate	1·23	1·25	1·23	1·09	1·08

<i>Pulmonary Tuberculosis.</i>					
Number of Deaths	14	17	12	12	14
Mortality Rate	1·01	1·23	·87	·87	1·01

During 1925 Tuberculosis was the cause of death in 15 instances, giving a mortality rate of 1·08. This figure is much as that for last year. In the case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis however, this year's figure of 1·01 is somewhat higher than that of the previous 2 years. A comparison of the above figures shews that the death rate from Tuberculosis in the town has for the last 5 years varied comparatively little. In the main, however, a tendency is in the direction of improvement.

### **Cancer.**

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Number of Deaths	12	11	9	20	16
Mortality Rate	·88	·8	·79	1·45	1·16

It is pleasing to note that this year the high figure for 1924 has not been maintained. However, cancer as shewn by the figures for the last 5 years, is tending to cause an increasing number of deaths each year. This is not by any means a purely local tendency, but appears to be affecting the country

as a whole. It is particularly disquieting in view of the great amount of research work which is going on all over the world. Last year, as the result of long research, we were led to hope that the cause of cancer had been discovered, but there is still considerable controversy on this point, and the experiments of Dr. Gye still await confirmation. One hopes that in the not very far distant future, some real knowledge of this insidious and fatal disease will be obtained and that something will be done to reduce the increasing fatality of cancer.

### Diseases of the Heart and Blood-vessels.

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Number of Deaths	13	17	24	24	28
Mortality Rate	·95	1·23	1·74	1·75	2·03

The Death Rate from diseases of the heart and blood-vessels for 1925 is again slightly higher than that for the previous year. The figures given above are not all strictly comparable, as the figures for 1921 and 1922 are limited to diseases of the heart only, and do not include diseases of the blood-vessels, but in spite of this, the death rate from these causes appears to have an upward tendency.

### Bronchitis, Pneumonia and other Respiratory Diseases.

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Number of Deaths	15	23	14	19	20
Mortality Rate	1·09	1·69	1·01	1·38	1·4

Looking at the above figures one is struck by the variation in them. After the high figure for 1922 there was a well-marked drop in 1923, but the figures for the last 3 years suggest again an upward tendency. The influence of Influenza with its accompanying respiratory complications, I believe, has had a great deal to do with the variation already noted.

### Death Rate as a whole.

1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
10·71	9·6	9·49	9·81	10·01

An examination of the above figures shews that the local death rate has remained fairly steady during the last 5 years in spite of the increasing number of deaths from Cancer and diseases of the Heart and Blood-vessels.

Deaths at all Ages for the Year 1925 (Uncorrected)  
According to Death Returns received.

	Under 1 yr	1-2 yrs	2-3 yrs	3-4 yrs	4-5 yrs	5-10 yrs	10-15 yrs	15-20 yrs	20-35 yrs	35-45 yrs	45-65 yrs	65 & over	
Total	121	12	-	-	1	-	3	2	4	10	6	28	55

The foregoing table shews how the deaths amongst local residents is distributed in the various age periods, and again one has to note that there is a considerable discrepancy between the local figures and those of Somerset House. Supplementary returns shew that 18 local residents died outside the district.

## **Causes of Sickness and Invalidity.**

During the last 5 years the town has had the usual annual visitation of Influenza, particularly in the early spring and late autumn, and this condition has been the cause of a very large amount of invalidity, although on the whole it may be said that it has not been of a particularly severe type. Measles, chicken-pox and parotitis (mumps) have, at varying periods during the last 5 years, caused a considerable amount of absence from school, but only in one instance was it found necessary to close a school on account of infectious disease. Again I wish to draw attention to the fact that these so-called childish ailments are not treated sufficiently seriously, and I think the neglect of isolation has been largely the cause of the prevalence of these conditions. It is difficult to make parents realise the infectivity of these diseases, and in spite of instructions to the contrary, children still in an infectious condition are allowed to mix with their play-mates. It is unfortunate that the child of the present generation appears to be the master in the home, and for peace sake allowed to dictate in the matter of its wishes to the rest of the household.

## **General Provision of Health Services in the Area.**

Under the heading of Hospitals, there is in the area a Small-pox Hospital provided by the Council, and also a Cottage Hospital provided by voluntary contributions. These two institutions are reserved strictly for the use of local residents. The Rushden House Sanatorium provided by the County Council, is within the urban area. This institution serves the whole county, in which the town is, of course, included. It has not been deemed necessary to provide a Fever Hospital locally as, fortunately, the town has been remarkably free from the diseases usually treated in such an Institution. It has been felt that the cost of erection and maintenance of a Fever Hospital would hardly be justified at the moment.

The Small-pox Hospital is situated on the Bedford Road, about a mile outside the Town. Up till the early part of the year this building was regarded as a white elephant, and the likelihood of its being used was scoffed at. The Hospital then consisted of a corrugated iron building partitioned off into two wards, one opening out of the other, and an administrative part consisting of a kitchen-living room with scullery and larder attached, and one bedroom. There were two earth closets, and the slop water ran into the ditch at the roadside. A so-called caretaker occupied the administrative side of the building, rent free, in return for which he was expected to keep the building clean. At that time the whole place was in a most unsatisfactory condition for the treatment of small-pox, which fact had already been pointed out in previous reports. However, when small-pox became prevalent in the county, improvements were commenced.



The building was put in a good state of repair, the earth closets were replaced by water closets and a proper cess-pool with pumping arrangements was provided. Shortly after the completion of these arrangements, and when small-pox seemed likely to break out in the town, the provision of another ward was sanctioned. Work had actually commenced when small-pox did in fact make its appearance. The Council was now faced with a new difficulty, for a certain section of the workmen employed on this new extension threatened that if the small-pox cases were admitted to the old building, they would cease work on the new. They stated that they were willing to work night and day if the cases were kept away. A Special meeting of the Sanitary Committee was called to deal with this matter, and it was decided that the cases should be admitted in spite of opposition. This was carried out and a certain section of the workmen immediately ceased work. It should be mentioned that this disaffection did not affect the Council's employees. The new building was ultimately completed by volunteers. It contains a store, a ward capable of housing 12 beds, a bathroom, a water closet and a slop closet. There is attached an outbuilding which houses the heating apparatus and a washhouse. A short distance to the south of the main building a small sectional wooden hut, divided into 3 small rooms, with a bathroom and sanitary accommodation was erected for the Nursing Staff.

The Small-pox Hospital, as it now stands, has accommodation for 24 patients, a cook and two nurses. It is sufficiently equipped at the moment for 3 patients, a cook and one nurse.

The Cottage Hospital, which is situated in Griffith Street, is very central. It has accommodation for two beds. A nurse is resident on the premises. The Cottage Hospital is only used for minor cases, the majority of persons requiring hospital treatment being sent to the county Hospital at Northampton or Bedford.

The Rushden House Sanatorium is under the administrative control of the County Council and forms part of its anti-tuberculosis scheme. The institution has accommodation for some 78 patients. It is primarily intended to serve the County as a whole, but a few patients are admitted from other districts. Eleven local patients have been admitted during the year. Although one has no official knowledge of the results of treatment in this institution, one's own observation leads one to believe that they are excellent and will compare favourably with those of any other similar institution in the country.

There are no local arrangements for dealing with the problems of the unmarried mother, illegitimate infants or homeless children.

Ambulance facilities in the district are excellent and they are in the efficient hands of the Rushden and District Motor Ambulance Association, an entirely voluntary body. This Association possesses a Ford Motor Ambulance which is utilised for the transportation of patients to hospital and other

local service. The service is a most efficient one, calls either night or day being answered with great promptitude.

Apart from the Brougham purchased by the Council for the transportation of small-pox cases, there is no local provision for the removal of infectious cases.

Clinics and Treatment Centres have not yet been established in the town. For the most part such services are in the hands of the County Council.

Public Health Staff :—

Medical Officer—part time.

Sanitary Inspector—whole time.

In both cases half of salary is recoverable from Exchequer grant through the County Council.

### **Professional Nursing in the Home.**

The Rushden District Nursing Association retains the services of one fully trained nurse who, when the necessity arises, has the assistance of another trained nurse. The services of the nurse are available for the nursing of sick persons in their own homes. The nurse is also a qualified midwife. She has done much excellent work. The local association is affiliated with the County association.

The provision for the nursing of infectious diseases at home, e.g., measles, is in the hands of the County Council. Under this heading, mention must be made of the excellent work done by the local branch of the St. John's Ambulance Association. In every factory there is at least one member of the association. It is very striking to note the efficient way in which these Ambulance men and women deal with the injuries resulting from factory accidents, while certain members are also deputed to attend public gatherings.

### **Midwives.**

At the end of the year there were four practising midwives in the town, of whom 3 hold the certificate of the Central Midwives Board. Of these latter, 2 are fully trained nurses.

### **Legislation in Force.**

A List of Bye-Laws and Adoptive Acts made and adopted by the Rushden Urban District Council is appended.

#### **Bye-Laws.**

19th Nov., 1891.	Bye-Laws as to new streets and buildings.
20th Apr., 1925.	„ „ „ „
19th Aug., 1903.	Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops, Regulations as to.
13th Nov., 1907.	Bye-Laws for the Prevention of Nuisances, etc.

#### **Adoptive Acts.**

5th Nov., 1891.	Part 3 of the Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1890.
30th Mar., 1903.	Private Street Works Act.



- 22nd Aug., 1908. Parts 2 and 3, and Sections 52, 53, 54, 55, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, and 68 of Part 4 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, subject to certain conditions and adaptations.
- 28th June, 1921. Part 6 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

### **Sanitary Circumstances of Area.**

**Water.** The water supply is derived from the reservoir situated at Sywell some 11 miles from the town. The water-works and supply is under control of the Higham Ferrers and Rushden Water Board, which is comprised of members of the two Local Authorities. The reservoir at Sywell, has a capacity when full of 236 million gallons and a surface area of  $68\frac{1}{2}$  acres. The gathering ground which comprises about 1,747 acres, consists of pasture, arable and woodland.

The water, after passing through filters, of which three are provided, is pumped to the service reservoir on the Bedford Road which is about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles outside and above the town. The capacity of this service reservoir is some 826,426 gallons, and the top water level is 338.5 ft. above sea level. A smaller reservoir at Wymington is also in use. From these reservoirs the mains of the two towns are supplied by gravitation. The supply is constant and the pressure is good. With the exception of a few houses in outlying districts, all the houses in the truly urban area are "on" the supply. In the majority water is laid on; in only a comparatively small number of cases is there a stand-pipe for the supply of several houses.

The water is of excellent quality and the supply practically unlimited. It exhibits no tendency to plumbo solvency. The total hardness is about 15 degrees and the figure for the temporary hardness is relatively high. During the year 1925 17.36 gallons per head, per day, were supplied for all purposes.

### **Rivers and Streams.**

A stream known as the Brook runs through the town, roughly from south to north. In places it is open, but for the most part, where it passes through inhabited portions of the town it is culverted. Where it is open the bed has been bricked, which renders periodical cleaning easy and enables it to be kept in good sanitary condition. During last year a further portion of the stream was covered in where it runs by the side of the South End Schools in High Street South. After passing through the town, the brook runs alongside the Sewage Works and receives sewage effluent. It eventually empties itself into the Nene, which river forms one of the northern boundaries of the Urban District.



## **Drainage and Sewerage.**

A water carriage system is universal in the town, except in some of the outlying districts where the sewers do not reach, and in these parts either the pail-closet system or cesspools are provided, these being emptied periodically. During last year the sewer was extended along the Hayway, where a number of houses previously depended on the cesspool system and have now been connected up with the sewer. A further extension of the sewer to meet the needs of new houses will have to be considered.

## **Sewage Disposal.**

The town is sewered on the "partially-separate system and the lie of the district has necessitated two out-fall sewers, one of which is 18 ins. and the other 12 ins. in diameter, the sewage running by gravitation to the works. The Sewage Works are situated in the north-western part of the district, occupying the lowest available ground. The sewage for the population of about 20,000 can be dealt with efficiently.

The out-fall from the two sewers, after passing through two Detritus tanks in which two sets of screens are provided, flows along a channel to the Sedimentation tanks. One side of this channel forms a weir, fixed at such a level that during storms, when the flood exceeds three times the dry-weather flow the excess water will pass into a channel leading to the "stand-by" tanks. There are three Sedimentation tanks with an "upward flow" having a total capacity of 171,500 gallons, and these work in parallel. The effluent from these tanks passes through open channels to the "Dosing tanks," and these supply the primary filters of which there are four. The effluent from these filters passes to a second set of "Sedimentation tanks," which are provided with Dosing valves, and these in turn supply the four secondary filters. The effluent from the secondary filters then passes to the two final Humus Tanks of which the combined capacity is 24,000 gallons. The final effluent falls into the brook and is carried thereby to the Nene. The filtering medium in the primary filters is slag of a coarse-medium "gauge," and that of the secondary filters is fine boiler clinker. The "humus" collected from the Dosing tanks and Humus tanks is dealt with on the land by gravitation; sludge from the Detritus, Sedimentation and Storm-water tanks is collected in a sludge manhole and blown by compressed air on to prepared sludge drying beds. When dry, this sludge is sold to farmers at 1/- per load. During the last year some 500 loads were disposed of in this way.

During the last four years an average of 137,800,250 gallons per annum of crude sewerage have been dealt with at the Sewage Works.

## **Closet Accommodation.**

Practically all the houses in the area are provided with wash-down or cottage hopper closets with flushing cisterns.

These are connected to drains, and are fitted with interceptors and a means of ventilation. In outlying districts the pail closet system prevails.

### **Scavenging.**

House refuse is collected weekly in two closed and two open carts. During the year 4,074 loads were collected, of which 3,472 were loads of house refuse, etc., and 602 were loads of tins and bottles, etc. The refuse is disposed of at two refuse-tips, one being situate close to the Newton Road on the eastern borders of the district and the other actually within the precincts of the land occupied by the Sewage Works. This present method of disposal can hardly be looked on as satisfactory, and the Council have under consideration the erection of a proper refuse destructor.

Practically all houses are, and have been for some time, provided with galvanised iron sanitary ashbins, these being provided by the owners of property.

### **Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**

A full detailed account of inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector will be found in the appended Inspector's Report. The total number of inspections made by him during the year was 1,591; the number of notices served was 131.

### **Smoke Abatement.**

This question does not arise, power for all factories in the district being provided for either by gas engines or electricity.

### **Schools.**

There are five Council Schools in the district, one of which has recently been converted into a Secondary School. With the exception of the School situate in High Street South which was formerly a Church School, the buildings are modern and they are all provided with proper water supply and ample sanitary accommodation. The schools are disinfected periodically, disinfection being carried out more frequently during the time of epidemic of infectious disease. On the notification of infectious disease, any other children resident in the house are excluded from school and are not allowed to return until a certificate that the house is clear of infection is issued by the Sanitary Inspector.

### **Housing.**

**General Housing Conditions.** The houses for the most part are comparatively modern brick-built houses of the artizan-cottage type. In the early days apparently little attention was paid to town-planning, but in the case of houses of more recent construction the question of Town-planning has been taken into serious consideration. There is still a considerable amount of very old property in the town, some of which is in a somewhat poor condition. Many of these old houses would have long ago been closed as unfit for



human habitation if there was proper accommodation to be obtained elsewhere. There is still a very considerable shortage of houses in the district, and at the present time there are no less than 317 applications for Council houses. The number of persons affected by this, taking an average of four persons per family, appears to be some 1,268.

It is somewhat difficult to explain the present shortage of houses in view of the fact that since 1911, when I am led to understand there was quite a number of empty houses in the town, the population has only increased by some 426. (Estimated population in 1925, 13,780 ; 1921 Census, 13,511). One explanation of this may be that the young people now marry earlier in life than previously, but this fact is rather contradicted by the steady reduction in the birth rate.

During the last 5 years a considerable amount has been done to reduce the shortage in housing accommodation. During that period 122 houses have been erected by private enterprise, and 131 have been erected by the Council. At the present moment there are 45 houses, both private and Council, in course of erection, and plans are being prepared for the erection of a further 40 Council houses. Furthermore at the moment, plans for the laying out of 50 acres for Council houses are in course of preparation.

### **Overcrowding.**

At the present time roughly 150 houses in the district are overcrowded. This is due chiefly to the present housing shortage, but may in some measure be due to the present industrial depression. No particular measures for overcoming this are in contemplation beyond the provision of more houses. Among the principal cases of overcrowding, one occupier was called to appear before the Committee, and he promised to procure a reduction in the inmates of the house in question ; this having been done no further action was taken.

### **Fitness of Houses.**

The general standard of houses in the area is good, being mainly of brick and of the artizan cottage type. Only in those most recently erected have baths been provided. A few of the older houses are constructed of stone with rough slate or thatched roofs, and a considerable amount of this older property can hardly be said to come up to the standard expected under modern conditions. The general character of the defects found to exist in these unfit houses is lack of proper accommodation and ventilation. In many instances floors and ceilings are defective and the roofs are not water-tight. On the whole it may be said that property-owners in the district remedy the defects in their property without too much persuasion being necessary. Much of the dilapidation is traceable to acts of omission or commission on the part of the tenants. One has been particularly struck by observing a general lack of attention to cleanliness, etc. in certain of the new Council



houses occupied by families who previously had inhabited some of the bad property in the town. The most common defect which has required the attention of the Sanitary department in connection with the houses in general is that of defective or blocked drains. Unfortunately, owing to the absence of proper local bye-laws the definition of a drain and that of a sewer is not clear, and in many instances the local authority has been responsible for the repair of what should have been defined as a drain, but came under the heading of a sewer. The general action taken with regard to unfit houses is set forth in the Statistical Memoranda. The legislation in force under this heading will be found in another part of the Report.

## Housing Statistics for the year 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year :

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b) ) .. .. .	67
(b) With state assistance under the Housing Acts :	
(I) By the Local Authority .. .. .	23
(II) By other bodies or persons ... .. .	42
(Ordinary) .. .. .	2

### I.—Unfit Dwelling-houses.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts).	100
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	24
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	39

## 2.—Remedy of defects without Service of Formal Notice.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	Nil
---	-----

### 3.—Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing  
Town Planning, etc. Act, 1919.

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—	
	(a) by Owners	Nil
	(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by owners of intention to close	Nil

*B.*—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... .. | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—   |     |
| (a) by Owners ... ..  | Nil |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of Owners   | Nil |

*C.*—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing Town Planning, etc. Act, 1909.

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ... ..   | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..   | Nil |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit ... .. | Nil |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..  | Nil |
| (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..   | Nil |

**Inspection and Supervision of Food.**

**Milk Supply.** There is no municipal milk depot, milk being supplied entirely by private traders. There does not appear to be any shortage in the supply, and the local methods of distribution are, as far as they go, satisfactory. No graded milk is procurable in the town. Under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order, 1899, a Veterinary Inspector was appointed by the Council and a summary of his Report is herewith set forth. There were no applications for licences for the sale of milk as classified by the Fourth Schedule of the Milk (Special Designation) Order, 1923, and no registration was refused during the year. Up to the present no samples have been bacteriologically examined, but samples will be taken in the future as the necessity seems to require.

**Meat.**

The Meat Inspection is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector who is also a qualified Meat Inspector. There is no public abattoir in the district and this fact adds considerably to the difficulties in carrying out efficient meat inspections. Slaughtering is carried out in the private slaughter houses at regular times and the Inspector visits these premises for the purpose of meat inspection as soon as practicable after actual slaughtering has taken place, but it has not been found necessary to “mark” carcasses. Stalls and shops where meat is exposed for sale are inspected periodically and necessitated some 437 visits during the year. One ton, 7 cwts, 1 qr. 33 $\frac{3}{4}$  lbs. of meat unfit for human consumption was seized or surrendered during the year, and in the absence of a proper refuse destructor was buried at the Sewage Works.

The number of private slaughter houses in existence is shewn in the following Table :—

	In 1920.	January, 1925.	December, 1925.
Registered	3	3	3
Licenced	4	5	6
	7	8	9

**Prevalence of and Control Over Infectious Diseases.**

Notifiable Diseases during the year 1925.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths
Small-pox    ...    ...	3	3	
Scarlet Fever    ..    ...	17		
Diphtheria    ...    ...	11		1
Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid)			
Puerperal Fever    ...			
Pneumonia    ..    ...	14		16
Other diseases generally notifiable :			
Erysipelas    ...    ...	7		
Encephalitis Lethargica    ...	2		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum    ...	1		
Other diseases notifiable locally :			
Chicken-pox    ...    ...	126		
	181	3	17
Tuberculosis—			
Pulmonary    M    ...    ...	9		5
"            F    ...    ...	7		9
Other Forms M    ...    ...	2		1
"            F    ...    ...	4		
	203		32

**Notifiable Diseases.**

Monthly Incidence of Infectious Disease.

Month	Small-pox	Chicken-pox	Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Fever	Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Encephalitis Lethargica	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other forms of Tuberculosis	Totals
January			1	1				1			2	2	7
February				3				2			1		6
March		3	4					4				1	12
April		6		1				2				1	10
May	3	4	3	1				2			4		17
June		4		3				1					8
July		5	2				1		1		3	1	13
August		7		1			1				4		13
Sept.		4	1				3	1	1	1			11
October		60					2				1		63
Nov.		17		4								1	22
Dec.		16		3				1			1		21
Totals	3	126	11	17	-	-	7	14	2	1	16	6	203



### Analysis of total cases of Notifiable Diseases.

Disease	Totals	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over
Small-pox	3							1		2			
Scarlet Fever	17			2	2	3	3	2	2	3			
Diphtheria	11					1	4	4		1	1		
Enteric Fever													
Puerperal Fever													
Pneumonia	14		2				1		2	3	2	2	2
<i>Other diseases generally notifiable :</i>													
Erysipelas	7						1		1		3	2	
Encephalitis													
Lethargica	2								1			1	
Ophthalmia													
Neonatorum	1	1											
<i>Other diseases notifiable locally :</i>													
Chicken-pox	126	3	7	6	13	18	71	6	1	1			
Totals ..	181	4	9	8	15	22	80	13	7	10	6	5	2

### Analysis of total number of Deaths from Notifiable Diseases.

Disease	Totals	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over
Diphtheria	1						1						
Pneumonia	4									1	1		2
Totals ..	5						1			1	1		2

1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
279.	278.	211.	118.	63.	42.	79.	80.
1924.	1925.						
83.	203.						

The above Tables shew the number of cases of notifiable diseases which have occurred during the year and also the numbers of those diseases in each year for the last 10 years. The figure for this year appears to be extraordinary high, but the reason for this is that chicken-pox was made notifiable in the early part of the year when small-pox was prevalent in the county, and of this year's figure, viz. 203, 126 were cases of chicken-pox. If this figure is subtracted from the total the number of 77 compares favourably with that of the previous three years. The figures for pneumonia have remained fairly constant throughout the years since it has been made notifiable, with the exception of 1922 when it reached 22 cases. No cases of Malaria, Dysentery or Trench Fever have been notified during the last 5 years.

## Small-pox.

An examination of the above table shews that there have been 3 cases of small-pox during the year. On the 18th May information was received from the Medical Officer of Health for Bedford, that two men resident in Rushden had been in contact with a case of small-pox in Bedford on the 10th May. These men were immediately visited and although the time for protection by vaccination had long passed, they and their families were urged to be vaccinated. In one case the man and all the other members of the family were vaccinated. In the other the man and all the other members, with the exception of a baby, were vaccinated immediately. The men were visited daily by the Medical Officer of Health, and when they began to show suspicious signs they were, with their families, isolated, no one being allowed to enter or leave the houses. Food was supplied to the families through the Sanitary department and delivered to them by one of the members of the Sanitary staff who had been recently vaccinated. On the 27th May one of the men were definitely diagnosed as suffering from small-pox. He was removed to Hospital the next day. On the 30th May the second case was notified and removed to Hospital the same day. On the 31st May the Medical Officer of Health was called, in consultation with another practitioner, to see a child who showed suspicious signs. The diagnosis being agreed, the child after vaccination, was admitted to Hospital on the same day. The last admitted patient was discharged from Hospital on the 17th July, and the two men admitted on the 28th and 30th May, were discharged on the 23rd July. The other members of the families were kept isolated in their homes, until proper disinfection had been carried out. The contacts of these three cases of small-pox were, as can well be understood, very numerous as the men had been employed in factories in the town, and the child had been attending school until a few days before the signs of the disease became apparent.

An attempt was made to inspect daily all the discoverable contacts. This entailed some hundreds of visits by the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector. All contacts were urged to be vaccinated and on the whole the success of this vaccination campaign was marked, only a comparatively few refusing vaccination altogether. At or about this time it is estimated that roughly 1,000 persons were vaccinated in the Town. A very striking lesson as to the usefulness of vaccination is to be learned from an observation of these three cases of small-pox. Although the majority of their immediate contact (i.e., other members of the family) had not previously been vaccinated, they were entirely protected by vaccination. Particularly is this notable in that the Mother of one of the patients volunteered to nurse her son at the Hospital. As she had a young infant, she of necessity took this child to the Hospital with her. Although

this infant was not vaccinated until after the appearance of the disease in his brother's case, at no time has he shewn any sign of small-pox.

The thanks of the town as a whole are, I am sure, due to this Mother who bravely volunteered to go to the Hospital and look after the small-pox cases there : more especially are thanks due to her because for several days she carried out alone this work of compassion before a nurse could be procured to carry on the work.

Between 400 and 500 vaccinations and re-vaccinations were carried out by the Medical Officer of Health during the small-pox out-break, but no particular attention was paid to the 1917 Regulations and no very accurate records could possibly be kept during the period when the work of looking after small-pox cases in Hospital and the examination of contacts entailed an enormous amount of extra work being thrown on the shoulders of the Sanitary department.

### **Scarlet Fever.**

Scarlet fever was notified in 7 cases this year. During the first three years of the quinquennium, comparatively few cases of scarlet fever were notified but during the last 2 years the number has increased as will be noticed by the figure of 22 for last year. It cannot, however, be said that scarlet fever has in any way been epidemic. The Dick test has not been used.

### **Diphtheria.**

This year 11 cases have been notified, which is the highest figure since 1920, when 13 cases were notified. A stock of diphtheria antitoxin is kept at the Council buildings and is available for the use of general practitioners. As suggested by the Ministry of Health, phials of three different strengths are kept. The Schnick test has not been used.

No cases of Enteric or Puerperal fever were notified during the year.

In 1924 Encephalitis Lethargica first made its appearance in town when three cases were notified. During 1925, two further cases have been notified. Of these five cases three have come under the personal observation of the Medical Officer of Health. One of the cases is a child of school age and her condition has markedly deteriorated since the date of notification. It is deplorable that we have so little knowledge of the cause of this crippling disease and, therefore, can do little or nothing towards its prevention or cure and that little can be done to mitigate the symptoms.



## Tuberculosis.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths:			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1 ..								
5 ..	1	2	1	1			1	
10 ..		1		1				
15 ..	1	1			1	1		
20 ..	2	2	1	1		3		
25 ..		1		1	1			
35 ...	2				2	2		
45 ..	1				1	3		
55 ..								
65 & over	2							
Totals ...	9	7	2	4	5	9	1	

### Deaths.

The above Table shews the number of cases notified and the number of deaths from Tuberculosis during the year. It also shews how they were distributed over the various age-periods. The following table shews the number of Tuberculosis cases in each year for the last 5 years.

1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
24	19	35	28	27	16

It will be seen that this year's figure is the best for the last 5 years.

Supplementary notifications of persons suffering from Tuberculosis admitted and discharged from Sanatoria are as follows :—

Admitted to Sanatoria 14.

Discharged from Sanatoria 14.

During the year there were 14 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 1 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

No action has been necessary during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925, and neither has any action been taken under Section 62 of the Public Health Act 1925.

The following Table shews the numbers and results of the examination of clinical material examined by the pathologist to Northampton General Hospital under the Council's arrangements with this institution.

Specimens.	Totals.	Positive.	Negative
For Tuberculosis	12	3	9
„ Diphtheria	48	9	39
Totals	60	12	48

## Disinfection.

There is no proper disinfecting station in the Town and there are no facilities available for the cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons. A small disinfecting chamber has, however, been fitted up and is presided over by the Sanitary Inspector. During the year 498 articles have been disinfected and 177 articles have been destroyed. 209 rooms have been disinfected after infectious disease. The means of disinfection utilised is sulphur dioxide and formaline spray.

In conclusion, I wish to thank all members of the Council for the ready assistance and kindness which has been shewn to me at all times in the carrying out of my duties. I wish also to thank the Officers of the Council for their ready assistance and particularly Mr. Piper, whose untiring energies, more especially during the time of the outbreak of small-pox, have been in a large measure responsible for the protection of the Town from the spread of infectious disease.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

OLIVIER A. J. N. MURISSET, M.B.,Ch.B.Edin.,  
Medical Officer of Health.

**Summary of Veterinary Inspector's Report, 1925.**

	Ending January.	Ending June.	Ending August.	Ending December.
Premises Inspected ... ..	24	24	24	25
Milch Cows & Heifers Inspected	170	186	166	170
Symptoms of Disease .	1			



# Sanitary Inspector's Report.



## *To the Chairman and Members of the Rushden Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my annual report for the year 1925.

In reviewing the list of inspections and visits, it is pleasing to note that in the total number, an increase has been obtained over the year 1924 : but to lament that the outbreak of Small-pox, that occurred during May was largely responsible.

A hundred houses have been inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts and the number of defects remedied will be found in the Appendix at the end of this report.

In some instances difficulty has been experienced in obtaining the remedying of the defects, and it was found necessary to report to the Council for the purpose of further proceedings if necessity should arise.

The housing shortage has still to be borne in mind and houses that should be closed have still to go on being patched up and made habitable. It was therefore inadvisable to ask the Council to grant any Closing Orders during the year.

The number of houses or premises inspected for voluntary improvements is practically the same as last year, but the items in sanitary work carried out, is 49 against 31. A detailed statement with regard to the erection of pedestal W.C's, baths, lavatory basins, etc., is in the Appendix.

The following statement will be of interest :

Water-closets fixed in existing bath-rooms	6
Rooms converted to bath-rooms	... 2

## Food Premises.

Under this heading it will be of interest to record an instance of a case of supposed food poisoning reported to me. A sample of the food supposed to have caused the poisoning was procured, and part of same submitted to the Pathological Department of the Northampton General Hospital for analysis ; but the result of the examination proved that no further action could be taken.

On the 1st April the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924 came into force, which made it necessary for butchers to give three hours notice of their intention to slaughter animals (excepting sheep) intended for food : and in the event of the carcase and organs not being inspected at the time of slaughter the butcher is not allowed to move them under three hours from the time of slaughter.

Certain articles in the Regulation affected butchers' shops and stores, and after suggestions were made the shops and stores were soon such as to meet the needs of the new Order.

The Act has certainly helped to produce a clean meat supply and given the Inspectorate a better opportunity to be present at the time of slaughter and inspect all organs, etc., as they are taken from the carcase : and the carcase before it has set.

The Register, this year, contains particulars of 6 licensed and 3 registered slaughter-houses, and during the year there has not been an instance where it has been found necessary to draw the occupier's attention to a breach of any law : the slaughter-houses have been excellently kept.

The following table gives the quantities of each food found to be diseased or unsound or unwholesome during the year, classified to show animals or parts of animals condemned for Tuberculosis : During the year the carcase and organs of an Ox, 5 Pigs, and a quantity of canned food were submitted for inspection.

At the end of the Report a full list of inspections to food premises is shown.

## Food surrendered or seized.

*For Tuberculosis.*

		Oxen.		
		cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
1 Carcase of an Ox	...	8	2	25
4 Forequarters	...	1	3	20
Organs :—				
2 Heads	...	...	2	8
7 Sets of Lungs	...	...	2	18
3 Livers	...	...	1	19
2 Hearts	...	...		10
1 Mysentery	...	...		10
Odd Fats	...	...		3

		Pigs.	
Organs :—			
6 Heads	...	3	4
2 Lungs	...		$4\frac{1}{2}$
2 Livers	...		11
2 Hearts	...		$2\frac{1}{2}$

#### *Other Diseases.*

		Oxen.	
Organs :—			
23 Livers	...	3	17
1 Lungs	...		9
4 Kidneys	...		8

		Pigs.	
7 Carcases of Pigs	...	4	11
Organs :—			
21 Livers	...	3	13
15 Sets of Lungs	...	1	17
17 Hearts	...		22
5 Other Organs	...	1	15

		Sheep.	
3 Carcases of Sheep	...	2	15
Organs :—			
9 Livers	...	1	12
5 Hearts	...		5
7 Lungs	...		21
2 Heads	...		12

		Other Foods.	
12 Tins of Canned Fruit	...		$25\frac{3}{4}$
20 „ „ Vegetables		1	$25\frac{1}{2}$
8 „ „ Fish	...		$3\frac{1}{2}$
1 „ „ Meat	...		3

Total ... 1 ton 7 cwts. 1 qr.  $23\frac{3}{4}$  lbs.

### **Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.**

At the end of the year the register contained the names of 34 Retail purveyors of Milk and 30 Cowkeepers and Wholesale purveyors of Milk. Several having given up business in the milk-trade whilst others have become registered. Four Retail purveyors of Milk and four Cowkeepers and Wholesale purveyors of Milk have been registered during the year.

There is still no applications to sell the several grades of milk, probably the advantages are not yet seen.



Generally the Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkstores are kept in a fairly clean condition, save for one or two which were cleansed and repaired towards the close of the year.

Sixty inspections were made during the year of these premises, together with all utensils used for the reception of milk.

### **Knackers Yard.**

The yard is situated in the North-east end of the district, and it has been found to be clean and free from nuisance throughout the year.

### **Factories, Workshops and Bakehouses, etc.**

Thirty-four inspections were made of Factories, and 9 of Workshops, and in 2 instances it was found necessary to ask for additional intervening air spaces to be provided, and in 2 other instances for additional W.C's. The sanitary conveniences generally have been kept clean.

All occupiers of Factories and Workshops were circularized twice during the year, and 93 lists were received containing the names of 182 Outworkers. This being 82 persons less than last year, employed outside the factories.

The register kept at the office contains full particulars with regard to Factories and Workshops, and at the close of the year the register contained particulars with regard to 106 Factories and 64 Workshops.

### **Fair Grounds.**

Spencer Park is still the site for the Annual Fair, and the sanitary conveniences situated therein are available for use by the van dwellers, also facilities are afforded by the fair contractor for the collection and removal of refuse. During the last 6 years there has not been any cases of infectious disease among the occupants of the caravans.

### **Infectious Disease and Disinfection.**

At the close of the year 285 visits had been made with reference to infectious diseases. 142 of this number being in connection with the 3 cases of Small-pox that occurred in this town last May. The persons who had been in contact with the actual cases had to be visited daily and kept under observation, also possible contacts had to be visited : and this procedure entailed working early and finishing at a late hour each day.

Fortunately we had valuable information to hand about 10 days before the first case was notified which was of great help in checking which might have been a serious outbreak.

Chicken-pox was made compulsory notifiable owing to Small-pox being prevalent, and this disease caused 74 visits.

The amount of disinfection at private houses, schools, etc., was very heavy during the time of the Small-pox outbreak, and it was found necessary to have additional help in this particular branch of the work.

Four hundred and ninety-eight articles were removed to the Depot for disinfection after diseases other than Small-pox; and 177 articles were removed to the Sewage Farm for destruction.

At the termination of infectious diseases and the rooms and articles therein had been disinfected, it was found necessary to ask for 23 rooms to be stripped and cleansed.

The efficiency of disinfection would be materially improved if a steam disinfector was provided, for in the event of another outbreak of Small-pox many valuable articles could be disinfected, which now have to be destroyed and compensation given; secondly the casual claims throughout the year for beds, etc., that have to be destroyed after other diseases, could also be eliminated.

Before our system of disinfection was installed in 1920, all beds were destroyed; the Council paying the Owners £1/7/6 for each bed. It is therefore gratifying to note that another saving has been effected and for this year, viz :—£177-7-6, as 129 beds were disinfected at the depot.

Forty-nine beds were destroyed, many of them on the advice of Medical Practitioners attending cases of Infectious Disease, and several claims for compensation in necessitous cases were submitted by the owners. The total claims granted by the Council amounted to £11. This amount is irrespective of that allowed through the outbreak of Small-pox.

Reference to the list of visits in connection with infectious diseases and the disinfections, etc., will shew the detailed account.

### **Petroleum Acts.**

The duties continue to increase and it has been necessary to pay 80 visits for the administration of the several Regulations and Orders under these Acts; an increase of 44 over that of last year.

The register contains particulars with reference to the 28 2 gallon tank and bulk stores, 10 underground tank stores with standard pumps attached, that have been fixed in different parts of the town, and 8 carbide of calcium stores. The total capacity of all petrol stores is 7,309 gallons.

### **Rats and Mice Destruction Act.**

To meet the appeal of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries the Council decided to hold another Rat Week, being from the 2nd to the 9th November, 359 tails were delivered at the Depot and for each tail 3d. was paid by the Council.

## **Conclusion.**

From my general correspondence during 1925, 131 preliminary letters and 19 cautionary letters were despatched to persons who were liable for the abatement of nuisances or the remedying of the defects to houses, etc.

I again offer my thanks to the Council for their assistance and co-operation throughout the year, also my thanks are due to other officers of the Council.

The Medical Officer of Health has been most untiring in his advice and co-operation, and to him I offer my sincere thanks and gratitude.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

FREDK. S. F. PIPER, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.,  
Sanitary Inspector.





# SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT.

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## Number and description of inspections and visits.

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Complaints received	...	...	110
Inspection of houses under Public Health Acts			76
Inspection of houses under Housing Acts			24
Inspection of houses and premises for			
Voluntary Improvements			13
Other premises			69
Houses, etc , with respect to refuse receptacles			27

### Food Premises.

Slaughter-houses	..	...	342
Butchers' Shops	...	...	95
Fish Shops, Fruit and Grocers' Shops	...	...	16
Stalls on Market Place	...	...	61
Other Food Premises	...	...	4

### Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

Cowsheds	...	...	34
Dairies	...	...	19
Milkshops and Milkstores	...	...	7

### Factory and Workshop Acts.

Factories	...	...	34
Workshops	...	...	9
Bakehouses	...	...	9
Workplaces	...	...	1

### Zymotic Diseases.

Diphtheria	...	...	9
Scarlet Fever	...	...	16
Erysipelas	...	...	2
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	1
Tuberculosis	...	...	10
Cancer ..	...	...	1
Other diseases	...	...	2
Inspections of Schools with respect to			
Infectious Diseases			14
Chicken-pox	...	...	88
Small-pox	...	...	9
Small-pox contacts	...	...	114
Possible Small-pox contacts	...	...	16
Removals to Hospitals	...	...	3
Secondary Visits	...	...	214
Number of times Test applied to drains	...	...	32

### Petroleum Acts.

Petrol Stores, Inspection of	...	63
Carbide of Calcium	...	11
Sites for Petrol Stores	...	6

### Rats and Mice Destruction Act.

Complaints received	...	7
Premises inspected	...	18
Premises revisited	.	6
Enquires	...	3

Total 1,595

### Rooms, Wearing Apparel, etc., disinfected after Cases of Infectious Disease.

Rooms Disinfected :—

Diphtheria (in private dwelling-houses)	10
„ (in schools)	8
Scarlet Fever	20
Erysipelas	7
Pneumonia	7
Tuberculosis	24
Cancer	9
Encephalitis Lethargica	1
Chicken-pox	74
Small-pox	30
„ (parts of factories)	3
„ (schools)	5
Other Diseases	9

Infectious Disease Hospital	
(including bedding, furniture, etc.)	2

— 209

Articles Disinfected :—

Beds	129
Pillows and Bolsters	237
Other articles of Bedding	77
Other Household articles	24
Articles of Wearing Apparel	22
Books (private)	2
„ (Library)	7

— 498

Articles Destroyed :—

Beds	49
Pillows and Bolsters	44
Other Articles of Bedding	32
Articles of Wearing Apparel	23
Other Household Articles	29

— 177

Total ... 884



## APPENDIX.

### Tabular Summary of Defects remedied during the year.

Rooms stripped and cleansed	51
Staircases and passages stripped and cleansed	9
Walls repaired	16
Ceilings repaired	3
Roofs repaired	11
Gutters repaired	6
Chimney stacks repaired	1
Yards paved	4
Yard paving repaired	3
Galvanized iron sanitary ash-bins provided	29
Damp walls rendered dry	4
Floors repaired	15
New floors laid	2
Windows repaired	2
Coppers repaired	1
Sink waste-pipes fixed	1
Fireplaces repaired	2
Sinks fixed	3
Outhouses repaired	5
New Drains laid	2
Drains repaired	7
Ventilating pipes erected	2
New pans and trap fixed to W.C.'s	5
Inspection chambers repaired	2
Bell traps removed	1
Gullies fixed in place of defective gullies	1
W.C.'s repaired	12
Cesspools repaired	2
New covers fitted to cesspools	1
Obstructions removed from drains	16
Accumulations removed	5
Smoke nuisances abated	1
Other nuisances	27
Food premises cleansed	1

#### **Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.**

New Dairies formed	1
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#### **Factories and Workshops.**

Intervening air space for W.C.'s	2
Additional W.C.'s provided	2
W.C.'s repaired	1
W.C.'s cleansed	2

**Workshops.**

Workshops cleansed	2
Walls and ceilings repaired	1
Bakehouses cleansed and limewashed	1

**Voluntary Improvements.**

Pedestal W.C.'s fixed	
(with flushing cisterns)	9
Baths and waste pipes fixed	3
Lavatory basins	4
Drains laid	12
Soil and vent pipes	9
Guillies fixed	6
Inspection chambers constructed	2
New sinks and waste pipes fixed	2
Detritus tank and sump formed	1
Urinals	1

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Total 314

RUSHDEN :

J. F. COOK, PRINTER, CHURCH STREET.





